

"Lawande"). Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 21, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Lawande in view of U.S. patent 6,349,352 to Lea.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 8, 16, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the Solaris Manual, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

The Solaris Manual describes a network routing command called "in.routed" that manages network routing tables. The Office Action contends based on the figure provided on page 3 of the Office Action that workstations A and C can communicate with each other transparently through a workstation B that is running the "in.routed" operation. Applicants agree with that assertion; however, that assertion is irrelevant to the patentability of the claims as the claims are not directed to two workstations that can communicate with each other transparently through an intermediate workstation, such as workstation B noted in the Office Action, that is running "in.routed".

The position in the Office Action appears to be that the claims when subject to a broad but reasonable interpretation are met by the Solaris Manual. However, applicants contend that the Office Action is actually not fully considering the claim limitations.

More particularly, independent Claim 1 is explicitly directed to a communication node that can recognize one communication node on a first network as one of its own constituent elements and can disclose its own configuration information to another communication node on a second network. As a result of that operation, the another communication node on the second network recognizes the one communication node on the first network as if that one communication node is a constituent element of the claimed communication node.

In other words, according to Claim 1, the one communication node is not recognized as existing on the first network (although that is actually the case), but is recognized as if it is a part of the claimed communication node on the second network. The Solaris Manual with respect to the “in.routed” command fails to disclose or suggest any similar provision.

Similarly as to independent Claim 1 noted above, independent Claim 8 is explicitly directed to a communication node that discloses a first configuration information regarding constituent elements in one communication node on a first network as its own constituent element, to another communication node on a second network, and/or discloses the second configuration information regarding constituent elements in the another communication node on the second network as its own constituent elements, to the one communication node on the first network. In other words, the communication node of Claim 8 provides a configuration information disclosing function similar to that of the communication node of Claim 1, with respect to both communication nodes on both networks. Again such features are neither taught nor suggested by the Solaris Manual.

Further, with respect to independent Claim 16, independent Claim 16 is directed to a communication node that transfers data to be exchanged between a packet input/output unit and an application executed on another communication node on a second network, through a first interface unit connected to a first network, such that one communication node connected to the first network is handled as if it is connected to the second network. In other words, the claimed communication node of Claim 16 transfers data to the one communication node on the first network on behalf of the application that is executed at the another communication node on the second network. Applicants submit that it is also apparent that the Solaris Manual fails to teach or suggest any similar provision.

Similarly, independent Claim 22 is explicitly directed to a communication terminal that communicates with a communication node on a second network and executes an application of the second network, while making a connection to a communication node on a first network. Applicants also submit that the Solaris Manual fails to disclose or suggest any similar provision.

In such ways, each of the above-noted claims is believed to patentably distinguish over the Solaris Manual.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-20, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Lawande, and the further rejection of Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 21, 23, and 24 in view of Lawande in view of Lea, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

With respect to independent Claims 1 and 8, the Office Action contends that the claimed “recognition unit” and the claimed “configuration information disclosure unit” are disclosed by Lawande at column 13, lines 37-67, column 14, lines 23-36, and column 12, lines 11-27.¹ However, for the reasons now discussed applicants submit that such teachings in Lawande do not meet the claim limitations.

At column 13, lines 37-67, Lawande merely describes a self-identity phase in which each node acquires a new IEEE 1394 physical address and advertises that to the network by broadcasting a self-identification packet, and the manager identity phase in which a root node searches and determines the manager capable nodes in the system. Further, at column 14, lines 23-36, Lawande merely describes an operation of a root node to transmit a message to enable root connection and a look-up table of addresses to the node that is selected as the

¹Office Action of August 27, 2002, the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5.

manager, and to then initiate a second bus reset. It is also noted that both of those portions of Lawande are part of a description of an initialization processing that takes place in the case of a bus reset (see particularly column 12, line 29, to column 16, line 5).

Moreover, at column 12, lines 11-27, Lawande merely describes a conversion from an IP address to a physical address to transfer data over the IEEE 1394 physical layer in relation to the layered architecture shown in Figure 5 (see particularly column 11, line 28, to column 12, line 27). That description in Lawande apparently has no direct relation with the description of the initialization processing noted above.

Given such teachings of Lawande, applicants respectfully submit that it is apparent that the initialization processing and the address conversion disclosed by Lawande contain no teaching or suggestion of a communication node that recognizes one communication node on a first network as one of its own constituent elements and discloses its own configuration information to another communication node on a second network, such that the another communication node on the second network recognizes the one communication node on the first network as if that one communication node is a constituent element of the claimed communication node, as required in independent Claim 1.

Applicants also respectfully submit that in view of the above-noted teachings in Lawande it is apparent that the initialization processing and the address conversion disclosed by Lawande contain no teaching or suggestion of a communication node that discloses a first configuration information regarding constituent elements in one communication node on a first network as its own constituent elements, to another communication node on a second network, and/or discloses the second configuration information regarding constituent

elements in the another communication node on the second network as its own constituent elements, to the communication node on the first network, as recited in independent Claim 8.

In such ways, Lawande actually fails to disclose or suggest any elements corresponding to the claimed “recognition unit” and the claimed “configuration information disclosure unit” of Claims 1 and 8. Thus, Lawande clearly does not render obvious Claims 1 and 8, and Claims 2-7 and 19-15 respectively dependent therefrom.

With respect to independent Claim 16, the outstanding Office Action contends that the claimed “packet input/output unit” and the claimed “application interface information transfer unit” are disclosed by Lawande at column 12, lines 11-27, and in Figure 5.² However, it is respectfully submitted that such teachings in Lawande do not meet the Claim 16 features as discussed below.

At column 12, lines 11-27, Lawande merely describes a conversion from an IP address to a physical address to transfer data over the IEEE 1394 physical layer, and Figure 5 merely shows the layered architecture. As such, applicants respectfully submit that it is apparent that the address conversion and the layered architecture disclosed by Lawande contain no teaching or suggestion of a communication node that transfers data to be exchanged between a packet input/output unit and an application executed on another communication node on a second network, through one interface unit connected to a first network, such that the one communication node connected to the first network is handled as if it is connected to the second network, as recited in independent Claim 16.

In such ways, Lawande fails to disclose or suggest any element corresponding to the claimed “packet input/output unit” and the claimed “application interface information

²Office Action of August 27, 2002, paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7.

transfer unit” recited in independent Claim 16. Thus, independent Claim 16, and Claims 17 and 18 dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over the teachings in Lawande.

With respect to independent Claim 19, the Office Action contends that the claimed “communication terminal function disclosure unit” and the claimed “Sub Unit information reception unit” are disclosed by Lawande at column 6, lines 10-41.³ However, those teachings in Lawande are not believed to meet the Claim 19 limitations as now discussed.

At column 6, lines 10-41, Lawande merely describes a stackable architecture of a remote access and routing server in which suboperations are implemented as separate devices including a routing device, a digital call terminating device, and an analog-digital call terminating device.

However, applicants respectfully submit that it is apparent that the server architecture disclosed by Lawande contains no teaching or suggestion of a communication terminal that communicates with a communication node on a second network, which discloses the communication terminal as Sub Units in an AV/C protocol executed on an IEEE 1394 bus, and which receives information regarding Sub Units existing in that communication node on the second network, while making a connection to a communication node on the first network, as explicitly recited in Claim 19.

Thereby, Lawande actually fails to disclose or suggest any element corresponding to the claimed “communication terminal function disclosure unit” and the claimed “Sub Unit information reception unit” recited in Claim 19.

In such ways, independent Claim 19, and Claims 20 and 21 dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over the teachings in Lawande.

³Office Action of August 27, 2002, at page 7, lines 8-11, and at page 5, lines 11-14.

With respect to independent Claim 22, the Office Action contends that the claimed “application execution unit” is disclosed by Lawande at column 12, lines 11-27, and in Figure 5.⁴ However, it is respectfully submitted that Lawande fails to meet the above-noted feature as now discussed.

At column 12, lines 11-27, Lawande merely describes a conversion from an IP address to a physical address to transfer data over the IEEE 1394 physical layer, and Figure 5 merely shows the layered architecture.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is apparent that the address conversion and the layered architecture disclosed by Lawande do not provide any teaching or suggestion of a communication terminal that communicates with a communication node on a second network and executes an application on the second network, while making a connection to a communication node on a first network, as explicitly recited in Claim 22.

Thereby, Lawande fails to disclose or suggest any element corresponding to the claimed “application execution unit” of Claim 22.

Thus, independent Claim 22, and Claims 23 and 24 dependent therefrom, patentably define over Lawande.

In such ways, each of the independent claims distinguishes over the applied art to Lawande.

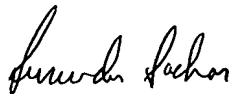
Moreover, the rejections based on the combination of teachings of Lawande in view of Lea are also traversed for the reasons discussed above, and as Lea cannot overcome any of the above-noted deficiencies of Lawande.

⁴Office Action of August 27, 2002, page 7, lines 17-21, and the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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